EDITORIAL

Welcome to our June issue, which is focusing on the use of generative AI (Artificial Intelligence that uses generative models to produce data) within the metadata world.

At the Metadata & Discovery Group AGM in September 2024, we were delighted that Hannes Lowagie from the Royal Library of Belgium gave a talk on PowerApps and AI for automated cataloguing. To share this work more widely and for the benefit of everyone unable to attend the AGM, a written version of the talk was published in C&I Issue 209 (December 2024).

In just a couple of years AI technology has exploded across the world, its presence being felt across many spheres of activity, not least within education and libraries. We've all heard stories of students using it to write essays, and it being more difficult for academics to spot where it has been used. However, increasingly, librarians are the ones who are providing guidance on how AI tools can best be utilised – not to write essays, of course, but for project tasks, and evidence synthesis, for example. AI is also reaching the realms of metadata work, so in this issue we will hear how a range of teams and individuals are engaging with AI within cataloguing and metadata activities.

Our first article by Tanya Izzard discusses *Book indexing and generative AI*. Izzard explores the possible application of AI to book indexing, after first giving an overview of human indexing

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processes. In addition to looking at the results of using AI for indexing, legal and contractual barriers are also highlighted.

Steven Hartshorne looks at *Manipulating rare print metadata with ChatGPT* at the University of Manchester library. A trial was undertaken to upgrade existing MARC records to make them DCRMR compliant using ChatGPT with mixed results.

Benjamin Cornish and Ben Scott from the National History Museum discuss the issue of linking print article records (child) to print journal (parent) records in their article entitled *Identify, Obtain, Explore - Using NLP to link article and journal records in the NHM library catalogue*. Facing a large backlog of unlinked article-level records, they utilised natural language processing (NLP) methods in a two-stage pipeline to automate the process of embedding links in their records.

Sheldon Korpet and Nathalie Rees's paper is on *Augmenting cataloguers: planning an AI agent to generate MARC21 records* and looks at the planned development of an AI agent to assist with the generation of catalogue records at Manchester Metropolitan University, where there is no full-time cataloguer. As with all the articles, the importance of maintaining human oversight is emphasised alongside ethical implications.

Finally, Fran Frenzel from the London School of Economics and Political Science takes a critical look at the technical and ethical issues with using generative AI in metadata and cataloguing work.

This issue also includes three book reviews of recent topical titles.

Hopefully, readers will find the articles in this issue informative as they address some of the processes that generative AI can be used for within cataloguing and metadata creation. If you are inspired to tackle a project of your own as a result of reading about where others are leading, please get in touch and share your processes.

Our September issue will focus on non-MARC cataloguing – from BIBFRAME to repository work, and a broad spectrum in between. Do contact the editors (catalogueandindex@gmail.com) or make a submissions through our journal platform (https://journals.cilip.org.uk/catalogue-and-index/about/submissions) if you wish to contribute.

Karen F. Pierce & Fran Frenzel, June 2025